

excursions to the Reculet during the present year furnished no results; no traces of *Branchipus* could be found in that locality.

Wishing to compare *Branchipus* with an allied genus, M. Vogt applied to Prof. C. Martins of Montpellier, to ask him for some specimens of *Artemia salina*, a species of Branchiopod which swarms in the salt marshes of the neighbourhood of Cette. M. Martins sent several thousands of these animals, with a supply of the mother liquors in which they live. They arrived at Geneva in good condition, and are living in an aquarium, in which they produce enormous quantities of eggs and larvæ.

M. Vogt exhibited a bottle filled with living *Artemiæ* and their larvæ and explained the structure of the adult *Branchipus*, describing, among other things, a pair of footjaws which had escaped the observation of MM. Joly, Leydig, &c. He then dwelt upon the form of the larvæ, which in both *Artemia* and *Branchipus* exhibit the primitive fundamental type of the Crustacea, to which the name of *Nauplius* has been given. But although fundamentally the same, the *Nauplii* of the two genera present considerable differences, those of *Branchipus* being shorter and more compressed, and those of *Artemia* more slender and elongated. The lateral compound eyes appear much later in *Artemia* than in *Branchipus*.

The first pair of appendages in the *Nauplius* consists of two antennæ which afterwards become the antennæ of the perfect animal. The second pair forms the chief or sole organ of locomotion of the larva; and after numerous moults these appendages finally become the horn-shaped pieces which serve as prehensile organs in the male *Branchipus* and are rudimentary in the female. The third pair serve the larva to carry its food to its mouth; in the adult it forms the mandibles, which constitute the third pair of appendages. The eleven pairs of natatory feet and the pair of footjaws of the adult originate subsequently by budding.

M. Vogt confirms the observation of M. Joly that among the *Artemiæ* collected at Cette during the months of July and August there are no males, and that the females propagate by parthenogenesis. This fact is the more remarkable as we find males in great abundance in other salt marshes inhabited by the same or analogous species.—*Bibl. Univ.* Sept. 15, 1872, *Arch. des Sci.* p. 30.

*On Osteocella septentrionalis from British Columbia.*

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

The substance described by me in the 'Annals, 1872, ix. p. 406, under this name was, at the meeting of the British Association at Brighton, and since in 'Nature,' regarded as the notochord of a fish! Professor Dawson of McGill College, Montreal, Canada, states that it was submitted to Professor Verrill of Yale College, who "had no doubt as to its nature" (that is, of its being the axis of a *Virgularia* or some similar creature), "but believed it probably belonged to an undescribed species." Dr. Dawson states that Mr. Selwyn's specimen has "attached to the granulated lower extremity some trace of animal matter, in which I think I can detect, under the microscope, a few club-shaped spicules."

The observation of Professor Verrill is interesting, as since I described it I thought it might probably be the axis of a species of his genus *Stylatula*, which has a subcylindrical axis instead of the quadrangular one of *Virgularia*, and of which he describes two species from California; but Professor Verrill does not recognize it as being a species of that genus.

*Sowerby and Lear's 'Tortoises.'*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—In the notice of Sowerby's Plates of Tortoises &c. recently published by Sotheran, edited by Dr. J. E. Gray, it is stated that "Many of the specimens figured and the rest of Mr. Bell's collection of reptiles are now to be found in the Anatomical and Zoological Museum at Cambridge."

This statement is incorrect, as Professor Bell's collection of reptiles (both in a dry condition and in spirit) was purchased by the late Rev. F. W. Hope, and was by him presented to the University Museum of Oxford. Professor Bell's admirable collection of Crustacea is also in the same museum, having been purchased by myself and presented to the University on my appointment as Hope Professor of Zoology.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. O. WESTWOOD.

The correctness of the statement in Dr. Gray's preface to this work having been called in question, we thought it our duty to submit Prof. Westwood's letter to Dr. Gray, from whom we have received the following answer:—

British Museum,  
October 24th, 1872.

MY DEAR FRANCIS,—Mr. Westwood's letter is entirely erroneous. I have had one specimen of Mr. Bell's lent me by Prof. Newton; and I have consulted the others in the museum of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, where they were before they were transferred to the Anatomical Museum. I never before heard that Mr. Bell had a second collection, and think it must be a mistake; I knew the collection of Crustacea was purchased by Mr. Westwood.

Yours truly, J. E. GRAY.

*The Ahu* (*Capreolus pygargus*). By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

We have three specimens of this animal in the British Museum—one from North China, and the others from Siberia; they are of very different sizes.

The Siberian specimens, male and female, are much the largest. They stand 38 inches high at the withers, and the length from the nose to the place of the tail is 53 inches; length of the hind leg to the hock 16 inches. In the specimens in the museum the horns are very slender, elongate, nearly smooth, and simple; one has a single branch on the inner side near the tip.

The Chinese specimen, on the other hand, is much smaller, about the size of the common Scotch roebuck, and of the same dark colour as it is in the summer. The horns are stout and long, with distinct